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# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

*Greenfield Hall*

Vol. 33 No. 2

343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

MAY 1989

## General Meeting

### ANTIQUE CLOCKS AND THEIR MAKERS

Thursday, May 25, 1989 at Greenfield Hall

In the days of the first settlers, keeping track of time was an important but more difficult task than today. Clockmakers were highly trained and much respected in their communities for their craft. The May 25th meeting of the Society will feature a talk and slide presentation on antique clocks by Bob Schmitz and Sid Greenblatt of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors.

Mr. Schmitz is a retired engineer who has been in the business of repairing and restoring antique clocks for the past fifteen years. He has spoken before other historical societies and has repaired and restored clocks for both private collectors and historical societies in the area. Mr. Greenblatt is a pharmacist who is also president of the Cherry Hill Chapter of the NAWCC.

Join us for an interesting and informative evening on Thursday, May 25th at 8:00 p.m. at Greenfield Hall. There will be a question and answer period following the talk, so you are welcome to bring both your questions and photographs or slides of your clocks for our experts to examine.

## In Search of an Administrator

In his *Philosophy of History*, Hegel claims that "what experience and history teach us is this – that people . . . never have learned anything from history." The Historical Society of Haddonfield announces that it wishes to contradict this pronouncement.

In its records for the year 1919 it found the recommendation that the Society hire a secretary to help in its activities. So, in its seventy-fifth year, the Historical Society of Haddonfield further announces that it seeks to hire a part-time administrator to begin working in the fall of 1989.

To this end the Society has charged a Search Committee to advertise for someone with administrative and secretarial skills to apply for the job. Furthermore, the applicant would ideally be able

to demonstrate either interest in or experience in museum or historical agency work.

In screening applicants, we would look for a person who could write grants, coordinate our numerous committees, spur fundraising, prepare the *Bulletin*, handle correspondence, and be in Greenfield Hall to open the building for tours, answer the telephone, and supervise its routine care and maintenance.

If you would be interested in this type of work, or know of someone who would be, please write the Search Committee, 343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033.

Jim Atkinson  
for the Committee



## President's Corner

The Annual Candlelight Dinner was a marvelous experience for all who attended. The evening was a reunion for many of our Diamond Jubilee recipients, as they had not seen each other for some time. The 75th Anniversary Dinner Committee worked with dedication and creativity. Many thanks are extended to Myra Kain, Blair Murphy, Joe Hartel, Kathy Tassini and their committees for their untiring efforts. As a result of the recognition of our Commemorative event, the public is becoming aware of the Society and our activities.

The HSH has started its campaign to hire a part-time administrator. We are placing advertisements in periodicals and newspapers. A criteria committee was formed to develop a job description to present to the Executive Board. The Board met in March at which time the criteria was amended and voted upon. We expect to begin interviewing candidates in the near future.

The latest word on the Scarborough property is that construction is slated to begin in June.

Margie Kanupke

## History Come Alive

April has been History Come Alive Month and Greenfield Hall has certainly come alive with the many eager little people who, with their teachers, have visited the Society.

Several more of our programs were held at the Historical Society this year in an attempt to increase public awareness of our organization in its 75th year. This proved to be a good idea.

"Domestic Arts", a new program, saw fourth graders at work in the back yard, 19th century style. We all learn by doing and do they did; beating rugs, using a carpet sweeper, scrubbing the laundry on a wash board and of all things, wringing it out tandem so it could be hung on the line to dry. Inside, exhausted, they sat and learned about Victorian snack food. Can you guess a few? How about Cracker Jacks and Animal Crackers!

"Cooper's Craft", a second grade program, and "Postal cards of Main Street", offered to fifth graders were held at Greenfield Hall. Those who could stay for a tour did.

Another program, "Introduction to Our Historical Society" was developed as a classroom orientation for second graders to the Society. They practiced their newly acquired map skills on a local map tracing their way to Greenfield Hall.

"Map Study of Haddonfield" and "Bottles to Bass Flutes" out of necessity remained as classroom presentations.

Over all, History Come Alive reached 620 students this year giving them a sense of their local heritage. Local schools included are Central, Elizabeth Haddon, Tatem, Haddonfield Middle School, Haddonfield Friends School and Christ the King School.

## Recent Donations

Mr. Fred Caravelli has donated \$50.00 for use in connection with the 75th Anniversary Celebrations.

Mrs. Joseph Wiederspohn has donated \$100 to be used for any restoration which may be needed on the Gill Fire Bucket.

## Acquisitions

The Society has been the recipient of the John Gill IV Fire Bucket for the museum's collection. The leather bucket is painted black with a yellow swag. The name is printed on the swag in red, while Haddonfield appears in red and yellow script.

John Gill, IV was a member of the Haddonfield Fire Company, and the bucket hung in Greenfield Hall. His dates are 1795 to 1884. We thank Mrs. Joseph Wiederspohn of Pelzer, S.C., formerly of Camden, NJ, for her generosity in memory of her husband. Mrs. Wiederspohn had purchased the fire bucket from John Gill, VII.

Tracy Marchetta

## Historical Society Celebrates 75th Anniversary with Candlelight Dinner

The Historical Society of Haddonfield marked the 75th year of the organization with a Candlelight Dinner at Tavistock Country Club on April 5th.

President Margaret Kanupke welcomed the 140 people in attendance before calling on the Reverend Canon Allen S. Bolinger, of Grace Church in Haddonfield, who offered the invocation.

Following the dinner, Haddonfield Mayor John J. Tarditi read a Resolution from the Borough of Haddonfield congratulating the Society for its 75 years of service to the community. Sixth-District Assemblyman, the Honorable Thomas J. Shusted, resident of Haddonfield, followed with a similar plaque from the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, honoring the Historical Society of Haddonfield in recognition of the 75th year.

Myra Kain, Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee, honored 18 special guests as Diamond Jubilee recipients. All of these people were residents of the Borough of Haddonfield when the Society was formed in 1914. The past presidents of the Society were also honored at the dinner.

The evening program was presented by Mr. Harold Haynes with his slide presentation of "Haddonfield: A Closer Look."

## It's Fair Time!

There's only one place to be on Saturday, June 3rd – and that is the Historical Society's Annual Historic Village Fair.

There will be the garage sale loaded with an all-new array of attic treasures and jewelry tables aglitter with baubles that even Cleopatra might envy. There will be books to engage the mind (but, please, no Geographics!) and tempting homemade delicacies to nourish the body.

Nature permitting, there will be Jersey strawberries and asparagus. Perhaps plants to fill unexpected gaps in the garden design, and herbs to add zest to summer meals.

Best of all – and by popular demand – the traditional Village Fair luncheon – chicken salad, herb bread, strawberry tarts and trimmings – will be served again this year.

The Historic Village Fair – a mixture of familiar favorites and unexpected surprises – is always a "fun" day. Members of the Woman's Committee extend a cordial invitation to one and all: "Come, meet us at the Fair!"



## 75th Anniversary Celebration –

### Help Carry Our Historic Flag!

On Monday, May 29, 1989, as part of the 75th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Society, members and friends of the Historical Society of Haddonfield will proudly carry their antique Civil War Era flag in the town's Memorial Day Parade. We are asking for help in this endeavor from any and all who are interested. If you wish to help carry the flag in the parade, please call Myra Kain at 429-0817. She will let you know where and when to meet. She needs to know how many volunteers we can count on since the flag is huge, and due to its age and fragile condition, requires a large number of people to carry it. Please come out and help so that your Historical Society can share this treasure with the community.

Fortunately, additional information on the old flag's history has come to light, enhancing the unusual story of the role it played in our country's past. A letter written by Charles Polk dated January 30, 1954, and sent to a friend named Walter of the Historical Society of Haddonfield sheds more light on the situation. Since Walter Cox was then president of the Historical Society it seems reasonably safe to assume that he was the friend named Walter. In this letter Mr. Polk quotes from Francis F. Eastlack's "History of Merchantville", 1899.

Very large and in surprisingly good condition, this flag measures 20' x 30' and carries 38 stars on its field. The number of stars is misleading in determining the age of the flag, however, since the first recorded history regarding the flag states that it was flown over Camp Union, Pennsylvania, in 1862. It was under this flag that the 118th Corn Exchange Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers was mustered into service for the Civil War. The flag served the garrison. In 1862 an official United States flag bore only 34 stars. It is now felt that the extra four stars were added, perhaps one at a time, for each newly recognized state, sometime between 1863 and 1890, the latter date being the end of the U.S. government's official recognition of our 38-star flag. Had it not been for the recently discovered Civil War history of this flag, the age of it would have been incorrectly determined using the 38 stars, placing its origin in 1876, the beginning of the officially recognized flag bearing that number of stars.

After the end of the Civil War, this flag and its pole were presented to U.S. Senator Alexander G. Cattell, Chairman of the Recruiting Committee and originator of the 118th Corn Exchange Regiment. The pole was erected on the lawn of his home in Merchantville, NJ, but the flag was preserved and flown only on national holidays and special celebrations. General U.S. Grant, a personal friend of the Senator, paid Cattell a visit in September of 1875 and himself raised the flag, an event witnessed by many Merchantville citizens.

Upon the death of Senator Cattell (May 1894), the flag became the property of another Merchantville man, Captain George W. Algor of Moore's Regiment, American Veterans. The old 100-foot flagstaff was purchased by William Longstreth and presented to the Merchantville Field Club where it was erected on their grounds. Apparently, this separation of flag and staff was the end of hoisting

the colors on special occasions. Years later the flagpole was destroyed by lightning.

When the Spanish-American War broke out, a group of Merchantville's citizens, including George W. Algor, Walter H. Eastlack and Marshall G. Stevens conceived the idea of flying this flag over Morro Castle, Havana Harbor, Cuba, as soon as the fortress should be captured. With this end in mind a public meeting in Merchantville was held on May 18, 1898, and Judges Charles G. Garrison and Howard Carrow made "eloquent remarks" concerning the role the town had in mind for the flag. Consequently, the flag was borne personally to Washington, D.C. to the War Department where it was offered to the current Secretary of War, Mr. R.A. Alger, on May 24, 1898. He referred the matter to Major General Miles who accepted the flag and the proposal from the people of Merchantville. On January 1, 1899, at 12 o'clock noon the forces of General Wade raised this flag over Morro Castle and flew it until sunset of that day. Realizing the age and historic value of this flag, General Wade felt it should be returned to Captain Algor. Thus, it was shipped back to Merchantville in February of 1899, intact, and snugly packed in the same trunk in which it had been sent to Cuba, and we feel, the same one where it now rests at the Historical Society of Haddonfield. Accompanying the flag on its return was a letter of thanks from the Secretary of War.

Upon Captain Algor's receipt of the flag, he presented it to Washington Camp No. 29 Patriotic Order Sons of America of Merchantville in mid 1899. This Organization had had at that time 95 years of service. In 1942 due to the recent depression it became necessary for Camp No. 29 to consolidate with Washington Camp No. 4 P.O.S. of A. of Haddonfield. With this merger of course, came the flag. The flag became an acquisition of the Historical Society of Haddonfield a year later when on April 17, 1943, Dr. Fred D. Haines, as NJ State Secretary of the P.O.S. of A. and a member for 39 years of Washington Camp No. 4 of Haddonfield, presented it, along with the trunk, to Mr. Walter S. Cox, then president of the Historical Society.

In spite of the wealth of historic information surfacing concerning this flag's past, nothing can actually be established about its manufacture. It was first believed that a Merchantville company made the flag due to a stamp found on the piece reading George W. Algor Co., Merchantville, NJ. We do know Algor owned the flag. Now another story about its origin has come to light, revealing that it "was made by the establishment of Matthias Homer, Merchantville's first Burgess, whose place of business was at 47-49 South Second Street in Philadelphia where he engaged in wholesale and retail merchandising of toys, baby carriages and fancy goods, and in the manufacture of U.S. flags." This bit of information may be more correct than the other considering the actual age of the flag and the fact that Homer and Senator Cattell were good friends and that Cattell had had a hand in organizing the Corn Exchange Regiment.

To the underside of the flag as it exists today is sewn a burlap-like webbing with 20-some loops extending beyond the flag's edges. It is assumed that this network was added some time between February of 1899 when it was returned from Cuba, and April 1943 when it was presented to the Historical Society of Haddonfield, so that the flag could be carried horizontally in a parade. The webbing was restored to usable condition in 1976.



**The Historical Society of Haddonfield**  
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Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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## Membership

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Boatner  
Mr. Frank C. Braun, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey S. Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Burns  
Mrs. Pamela L. Chase  
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Colombi  
Mr. Joseph Falana  
Mrs. Elizabeth Garwood  
Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Gioe & Family  
Dr. & Mrs. Anton Kemps  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel B. Korin  
Mr. John Leonard  
Mr. & Mrs. James Maloney  
Capt. & Mrs. Roy Mathers  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward B. Patterson, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Rooney

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## Lost Haddonfield

We would like to thank all those who have so generously offered their photographs and reminiscences of "Lost Haddonfield" over the last few months. The book is well on its way to meeting the publication deadline of early fall and will, we think, be an appropriate vehicle for highlighting the Society's important anniversary.

We have one last plea for two pictures which would be most appropriate to our text, but which we have not yet been able to ferret out. Does anyone have a picture of ice skating on either Evans Pond or Hopkins Pond? This was apparently a major form of winter recreation in this area certainly into the 1920's, yet we have not found any pictures of this activity. We are also looking for a good picture of any of the many greenhouse complexes which were located in the rear of several of the properties along Kings Highway in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

If you have any pictures of either of these subjects please contact either Kathy Tassini (429-2462) or Doug Rauschenberger (429-1304). Thank you for looking.

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